

Testimony to the Joint Committee on Ways and Means Subcommittee on Education  
in Support of HB 2411 A  
May 22, 2015

Co-chairs Komp and Monroe and members of the committee. For the record, I am Randy Hitz, Dean of the Graduate School of Education at Portland State University. I am writing to support HB 2411 A and I thank you for the opportunity to explain my position.

My background related to HB 2411 A includes 24 years of experience as a dean of education, eleven years of experience on state licensure boards, and 15 years of experience on national accreditation boards and review teams. I am currently on the Board of Directors of the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and I Chair the Continuous Improvement Commission, the unit that makes final decisions about educator preparation program accreditation. I also serve on the licensure redesign team for the Oregon Teacher Standards and Practices Commission.

The Oregon Legislature has made good progress in helping to advance the education profession through the creation of the Network for Quality Teaching and Learning and other efforts to support teachers and school administrators. Ongoing support for the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission is among the most important things the Legislature can do to support the profession and ensure well-prepared educators in all schools.

HB 2411 A does two major things that will help the Commission function more effectively. The name change is entirely appropriate, but more importantly this bill will enable the Commission to (1) increase its revenue in order to improve services and (2) create a true tiered licensure system.

Raising the Commission's statutory fee cap will enable them to hire more staff and upgrade systems in order to enhance communication and to improve services in general. Creating a tiered licensure system will provide more and better defined levels of expertise, thus rewarding educators for increasing their knowledge and skills and, just as importantly, providing a better career ladder that will enable teachers to advance in the profession without leaving the classroom.

The success of the Teacher Standards and Practices Commission is important to the Portland State University Graduate School of Education because nearly all of our graduates seek licenses and must meet Commission standards and throughout their careers they interact with the Commission to obtain and renew their credentials. The quality of the Commission's standards and the quality of their services is important to educators and, most importantly, it is vital to the quality of education we provide our K-12 students. Your support for HB 2411 A will provide an important step in helping the Commission succeed.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to speak in support of HB 2411 A.